



Reach One More For Jesus!

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

PRELUDE "Be Still, My Soul" by Katherina von Schlegel/Jean Sibelius Thelma Downey

CENTERING WORDS Denise Cosgrove

Advent is a time of waiting, a time to open our hearts to God's presence, a time to pay attention to God's call. God's love breaks in over and over again. Be awake, for God is near.

WELCOME Denise Cosgrove

CALL TO WORSHIP Denise Cosgrove

L: In those days, before the final coming of Christ in glory, there will be mighty signs.

P: They will be seen in the heavens and on earth.

L: They will remind us of God's eternal presence and power.

P: We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

L: Therefore, let our hearts be glad and our souls rejoice!

P: God has reached out to all God's people with compassion and tender mercy. Amen.

OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1 & 2 Hymnal Page #211

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING PRAYER Denise Cosgrove

God of love and mercy, we thank You for Your loving presence in our lives. You have formed us in Your image and You continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of Your love flood in, that we may become more productive disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Bill & Beverley Cassaga

Reader One: If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that You would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make Your Name known ... so that nations might tremble at Your presence." So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be Your people, a people of *hope*.

Reader One: We light this first candle as a sign of our *hope*. *Hope* that You can meet us, even in the mess of our world. *Hope* that You still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

Light the Hope Candle

Reader Two: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

READINGS

Denise Cosgrove

Mark 13:33-37 NIV

³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"WHAT IN THE WORLD IS ADVENT?"

Pastor Tom

1. Advent Calls Me To Watch.

Mark 13:35

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

2. Advent Calls Me To Wait.

Psalms 27:14

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

3. Advent Calls Me To Hope.

Psalms 130:5

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE

Pastor Tom

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Tom

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

Pastor Tom

DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymnal #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Denise Cosgrove

Generous and loving God, You give us everything we need. Surrounded and supported by Your love, there is nothing we lack. As we bring our offerings to You, may they support Your work of peace and justice, and bring hope to the world. As we bring our very selves to You, mold and shape us as You will, then send us forth to serve. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" sung twice

Hymnal Page #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His Name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, His Name is called Emmanuel.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Tom

POSTLUDE

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" by H. Ernest Nichol

Thelma Downey